



# NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

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Volume 5 Number 3

William L. Hilsenhoff, Editor

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December, 1977

## ANNUAL MEETING

The biggest news in the Society is the huge success of the annual meeting on Saturday, December 3. In past years the annual meeting has been no different from other monthly meetings except for the election of officers. This year we decided to hold the meeting on a Saturday afternoon, invite members to present papers, and to follow the meeting with a social hour and dinner. The 32 who attended the afternoon session and the 28 who were at the dinner agreed that this is a tradition that should be continued and promoted in the future.

The business meeting was called to order by President Hilsenhoff at 1:20 p.m.. Minutes of the November 8 meeting were approved as circulated. A slate of officers for 1978 that had been prepared at a meeting of the Executive Council on November 8 was placed in nomination as follows: William Sieker - President, Glenn Esenther - Vice President, Robert Topczewski - Treasurer, Thomas Karl - Secretary, and David Radke - Councilman 1978-1980. There were no additional nominations from the floor, and it was moved by Richard Narf, seconded by Robert Dicke, that a unanimous ballot be cast for the proposed slate. The motion carried. The elected officers will begin their terms on January 1, 1978. The desirability of having the annual meeting at other times of the year was discussed, since early December can present travel problems. It was moved by William Sieker, seconded by Richard Narf, that in the future the annual meeting be held in early November. The motion passed unanimously. There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned and the program began at 1:35 p.m., 5 minutes after the time scheduled.

The first speaker was William Sieker, a Madison attorney, who talked about Sphingidae of Wisconsin. Bill showed us the superb transparencies that were recently made for his monograph on Wisconsin Sphingidae that is to be published by the Wisconsin Natural History Council. He discussed the status of each species in Wisconsin and reminisced about collections he had made.

Following Bill Sieker's presentation was an illustrated talk about Lepidoptera of Northern Wisconsin by Leslie Ferge of Wausau. Les discussed the distribution and abundance of many of northern Wisconsin's more interesting species, showing slides of their typical habitats and some wonderful pictures of the butterflies and moths in their natural settings.

The third speaker was Professor Robert Jeanne of the Department of Entomology. He discussed An Unusual Behavior of a Tropical Paper Wasp. This wasp had departed from traditional nest building activities to avoid nest parasitism by a tiny lepidopteran. He illustrated the typical single nests of North American wasps and the life cycles of their inhabitants, and then showed how the South American species avoided the parasites by building multiple nests.

Following a 20-minute social break for coffee, doughnuts, and discussion, Glenn Esenther of the Forest Products Laboratory told us about Juvenile Hormone Analog Effects on Termites. Most interesting of the effects was the production of a high percentage of soldiers, which ultimately caused a decline in the termite colony. Following the slides depicting effects of juvenile hormone analog, Glenn showed a 10-minute film on termite behavior.

The next speaker was Stan Flashinski from the Johnson Wax Corporation in Racine. He showed slides from a recent trip to Argentina on Control of Chagas Disease in Argentina. This is an incurable disease that causes death in about 20 years. It is carried by reduviid bugs of the genus Triatoma. He showed conditions prevalent in much of rural Argentina that contribute to an almost 100% infection rate and told of the efforts of the Argentinian government to control the disease by spraying the adobe houses that harbor the bugs.

As a finale for the afternoon program, Walter Gojmerac of the Entomology Department showed two new films on Bee Management. The photography was excellent; particularly enjoyable were some of the closeups. The films were very well done and concisely presented tips to bee keepers on hive management. They were developed for extension courses in bee management.

At about 5:00 p.m. we adjourned to the Lantern Inn for an hour of cocktails and conversation, followed by a dinner ordered from the menu. After dinner, Ken MacArthur, former Curator at the Milwaukee Museum, showed a film on Insectivorous Plants. It was a superb creation, another one of Ken's works of art. Everyone was entranced as the film showed various insectivorous plants in North America capturing their prey. The audience was saddened to see a Venus Fly Trap capture a small frog, and relieved when Ken said he had rescued the poor little frog. This film was a wonderful climax to a very enjoyable afternoon and evening.

This first annual meeting was more or less an experiment that was not planned very far in advance. It was reasoned that such a meeting would provide an opportunity for greater participation in the Society by members living outside of the Madison area, and would give members a chance to meet each other and exchange ideas. Almost all Entomological Societies have similar annual meetings. With the success of this first annual meeting, ample time to plan for the second annual meeting, and movement of the meeting time to early November when travel presents no problems, next year's annual meeting should be an even greater success.

#### EDITOR, EDITOR - WE NEED AN EDITOR

Jim Mertins, who served as Editor since the death of our first Editor, Lutz Bayer, in 1973, resigned his position when he moved to Ames, Iowa last summer to become a Professor at Iowa State University. Jim did a great job and it will be difficult for someone to follow in his footsteps, but being editor of the Newsletter can be a rewarding experience. The Newsletter has been published three times each year, usually in February, May, and November. There have been several offers by members to contribute to the Newsletter, so the Editor's job will mainly be one of organizing contributors and using their material. We urgently need somebody to replace Jim. If you are interested in becoming the Editor of the Newsletter, please contact President, William Sieker.

#### OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 1978

President - William Sieker  
Vice President - Glenn Esenther  
Treasurer - Robert Topczewski  
Secretary - Thomas Karl  
Past President - William Hilsenhoff

Councilman 1976-1978 - Walter Gojmerac  
Councilman 1977-1979 - Dan Capps  
Councilman 1978-1980 - David Radke  
Editor - (position to be filled)

## HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY - XIII

contributed by Jim Mertins

Dr. Allen resigned as department chairman in July, 1959, to devote fulltime to research. At that time there were 17 faculty members (4 Professors, 8 Associate Professors, and 5 Assistant Professors), 7 Project Associates, and 52 graduate students. The department office had a departmental secretary, 3 stenographers, and one full-time civil service handyman. In 1964, Dr. Allen retired to a 10-month annual appointment, and later to a 3-month basis after he moved to Oregon. He was made Professor and Chairman Emeritus of Entomology after 38 years of service on the departmental staff, including 13+ years as department chairman. In addition to his many other accomplishments, he had been instrumental in obtaining at least two patents while at Wisconsin, both of which were assigned to the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. One involved the utilization of sabadilla plant extracts as insecticides and the other concerned the relationships between wood-rot fungi and subterranean termites.

Following Professor Allen's resignation, Dr. R. J. Dicke, a staff member since 1946, was chosen by his colleagues as department chairman. Born in Sheboygan, Dr. Dicke was a thoroughbred Wisconsinite, attending Whitewater State Teachers College before transferring to the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where he later earned a B. S. with honors in 1940. He was one of Dr. Allen's graduate students, and received the Ph.D. in entomology in 1943, completing a dissertation on Sabadilla spp. and their toxicity to house flies. After a hitch in the navy, Dr. Dicke returned to the University of Wisconsin and was appointed Assistant Professor in 1946. His chairmanship came at a time when the major immediate responsibility was to plan and develop detailed facilities and occupancy of the new entomology building. Prof. Dicke served as chairman until July, 1968, when he went back full-time to his first love, teaching entomology. His excellence in this endeavor was rewarded in 1973 with university recognition and a \$500 award. In 1977, after 34 years on the entomology staff, including 9 years as chairman, Prof. Dicke retired from the department.

Eight new professors joined the faculty during the decade of the 1960's, representing a net gain of 4 positions. W. L. Hilsenhoff (currently WES President) arrived in 1960 to study aquatic insects, a position originally warranted by the Lake Winnebago lake fly problem. Dr. John Libby succeeded the late J. M. Wright in 1962 as extension entomologist on fruit and vegetable problems, and F. E. Moeller became Adjunct Assistant Professor in 1963, when he succeeded Dr. Farrar, who retired as Investigations Leader in the USDA Bee Culture Laboratory. Professors G. M. Boush and Fumio Matsumura joined the staff in 1964 following the resignations of E. R. Oatman and J. E. Casida. In 1967, Dr. W. E. Burkholder, Investigations Leader of the USDA Stored Products Insect Laboratory (housed in Russell Laboratories), was given the status of Adjunct Assistant Professor.

In 1965, Dr. W. L. Gojmerac arrived to assume responsibility for extension programs on insects related to households, structures, food storage and processing, field crops, man and animals. Dr. C. F. Koval was temporarily employed to replace Dr. Libby on extension in fruits and vegetables, while the latter was on a 3-year tour of duty with the U.W.-AID Program in Nigeria. When Dr. Libby returned in 1968, he resumed responsibility for vegetable extension and vegetable insect research. Dr. Koval was retained on a permanent basis to handle extension programs on fruits and ornamentals.

**WANTED:** Keys and other aids for identification of photographs and/or collected specimens, insects, spiders, and other arthropods. Donations accepted or will barter. Contact C. Behnke, Rt. 2, Box 152, Dodgeville, WI 53533. Phone - (608)-583-2893



FOR SALE: The Insect Galls of Indiana by Cook (1905); Mon. Revision of the Order Strepsiptera by Pierce (1909); Directions for Collecting and Preserving Insects by Banks (1909); Orthoptera of Indiana by Blatchley (1901); Butterflies by Weed (1930); The Moth Book by Holland (1905); Rev. of Puer Group of N. A. Genus Melanopus (Orthoptera, Acrididae) by Hubbell (1932); Ecology of Orthoptera and Dermaptera of Geo. Res., Michigan by Cantrall (1943); Mon. of Mordellidae (Coleoptera) of N. A. by Liljeblad (1945); Syrphidae of Ohio by Metcalf (1913); Annot. List of Michigan Trichoptera by Leonard (1949). Best offer. M. C. Nielsen, 3415 Overlea Dr., Lansing, MI 48917.

### INSECT STAMPS

WES members may remember an Editor's note in the NEWSLETTER for January, 1976, regarding a campaign to have the U. S. Postal Service issue one to several insect stamps to commemorate the 15th International Congress of Entomology which met in Washington, D. C. last August. I don't know how many of our members joined me in writing to their congressmen and/or the Postmaster General, but apparently some activity was stimulated. I received answers to all four of my letters, but each indicated essentially the same thing; although it was too late to issue insect stamps in time for the Congress, the idea might be considered for the future.

The first week in June, 1977, the promise was fulfilled. The Postal Service issued the first-ever U.S. stamps picturing insects. The set of four different stamps featured (not surprisingly) four species of butterflies. One species was selected to represent each of the four corners of the contiguous 48 states. The Northwest was represented by a swallowtail, Papilio oregonius, the Southwest by the California dogface, Colias eurydice, the Southeast by the falcate orangetip, Anthocaris midea, and the Northeast by the Baltimore checkerspot, Euphydras phaeton. I bought three sheets of 50 stamps each on the first day they were available. If the Ames post office was any indicator, those of you who didn't purchase a supply early were out of luck. They were "extremely popular" according to the postal clerk, and sold out in 9 days.

Perhaps it's time to write to the authorities in Washington, D. C. again, and ask for more insect issues. Maybe some Coleoptera next time, or aquatics..... or take your pick and promote it. Somebody out there is listening. - Jim Mertins

### MEMBERSHIP AND 1978 DUES

Membership in the Wisconsin Entomological Society now stands at 117. A list of members will be found on the following pages. Members who have not paid dues for 1977 are marked with an asterisk and according to the By-Laws will be dropped from membership if dues are not paid immediately along with dues for 1978. Dues statements have been enclosed in this newsletter; if you have already paid dues for 1978 you will receive no statement. Dues have remained at \$2.00 in spite of rising costs for duplicating and postage. This is possible because of additional contributions from Sustaining Members and Patron Members. We especially want to acknowledge the Patron Members who paid \$25.00 last year - Dave DeSwarte, John Medler, Jim Mertins, and Bill Sieker. If you wish to be a Patron or Sustaining Member in 1978, please send \$25.00 (Patron) or \$5.00 (Sustaining) instead of the \$2.00 for which you have been billed.

It is important that addresses of members be kept current. If your address is incorrectly listed, please notify the Secretary Tom Karl, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.

# MEMBERSHIP - 1977

P = Patron Member (\$25)    S = Sustaining Member (\$5)    \* = Dues not paid in 1977

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Wisconsin Entomological Society  
Department of Entomology  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI 53706

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization represented (if any)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title or Occupation Phone: (include area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Individual membership (\$2.00 per year)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization membership (\$10.00 per year)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sustaining membership (\$5.00 per year)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patron membership (\$25.00 or more per year)

General Interest Area

\_\_\_\_ Aquatic Insects \_\_\_\_\_ Collecting and/or Taxonomy  
\_\_\_\_ 4-H or Scout Member \_\_\_\_\_ Insect Photography  
\_\_\_\_ Extension Worker \_\_\_\_\_ Physiology  
\_\_\_\_ Life History, Biology, & Behavior \_\_\_\_\_ Apiculture  
\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Pest Control  
Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Interests (Order, Family, Genus) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are an authority for certain insect taxa, would you be willing to  
identify Wisconsin specimens for members? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

\*\*\*\*\*

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Entomological Society and mail to the  
Treasurer, Wis. Entomol. Soc., Dept. of Entomology, 237 Russell Labs., U. Wisc.  
Madison, Wisc. 53706 .